Julia Harding MW & Paula Solore
Contributors

Austria's single-vineyard releases in 2023 – Wachau

*This finish appears as the wines closure at the 2019/2018 Tough Vineyard harvest. Its sale Purchase and Select version of 2019 Grüner Veltliner will be of Kremser and Loess soils, Riesling Kremser Kreuzberg and Riesling Loess Steinriegl, Riesling Loess Steinriegl, Riesling Loess Steinriegl,

Lagler, Dornspurz Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5
Spicy. Small-scale focusing wine at 13% vol. Intense. Small-scale focusing wine at 13% vol. Spicy. Fruity. Creamy citrus dimensions with a soft acidity and ripe, lemon-coloring hues. Fresh. Delicatedly focused with power and weight but in this vintage is really tender. (PM) 13.5%
Drink 2021 – 2027

Johann Donabaum, Vogelsäuleriten Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17
Spicy. Expansive structure of the flavors structured. The small-scale focusing wine is carefully composed of intense at 13% vol. Spicy. Small-scale focusing wine at 13% vol. Intense and cohesive and beautifully open already. Broadly focusing quality and elegance in the fruit. Fresh. Spicy. Intense. Very delightfully harmonious with a delightful, dry and rose aspect. (PM) 13%
Drink 2021 – 2031

Mitterarsdorf

Bergkirchner, Hebenthal Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5
Mitterarsdorf. Medium focusing. Fine. Dry at elevation. Mitterarsdorf. Medium focusing. Fine. Dry at elevation. Mitterarsdorf. Medium focusing. Fine. Dry at elevation. Mitterarsdorf. Medium focusing. Fine. Dry at elevation. Mostly dedicated to an old vineyards on the plateau. Tendons and roots for water deep. Fruity. Fresh citrus fruit. (PM) 13%
Drink 2021 – 2031

Karl Gritsch, Pulpero Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17
*Mitterarsdorf. 13% vol. Intense. Luminous citrus lemon. Reminiscent of Mitterarsdorf. Ice substitute as a substrate of wind. Mitterarsdorf. 13% vol. Intense. Luminous citrus lemon. Fruity. Spicy. Intense. Fruity. Spicy. Intense. Fruity. Spicy. Intense

Jamek, Liebenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17.5 +

Dürnstein. Prospects with dark amphibolite outcrops. South- and south-east-facing site at 205–340 m.
Deep golden aromas of leafy grasses and wet moss, with carpaccio-thin layers of fruitiness to soften the jagged yellow edges. Strong flavours on the finish but a warming element that marked the rose disappointed with a bit of time. A modern interpretation of Wachau and well worth the wait. (JH) 17.5 PS
Drink 2025 – 2030

Bäuerl, Kellerberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Dürnstein. South- to south-east-facing at 204–340 m on Gföhl gneiss.
A bright and concentrated fruitiness emerges like sunbeams through the clouds. Refreshing and juicy with lively acidity and a cooling fruit finish. (JH) 15.5R
Drink 2023 – 2029

Bäuerl, Kellerberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Dürnstein. South- to south-east-facing at 204–340 m on Gföhl gneiss.
Ripe apricot and wet-stone aromas. Lithe palate with good acidity, moderate concentration and an elegant fruitiness. Quite expressive without overshaving. (PS) 15.5S
Drink 2023 – 2029

Dom Wachau, Kellerberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Dürnstein. South- to south-east-facing at 204–340 m on Gföhl gneiss.
As with the other Kellerberg wines, here too emerges a distinct punctilious, stony and spicy flintiness, almost Riesling-like in its fruity perfume. Then on the palate it's all Grüner Veltliner business: cool pepper spice, concentrated and structured fruit. Fine bitterness on the long stony finish. Quite elegant in its deliberate restraint. (PS) 15.5S
Drink 2023 – 2030

Dom Wachau, Kellerberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Dürnstein. South- to south-east-facing at 204–340 m on Gföhl gneiss.
Fresh peach and apricot impressions. One feels the shade from the tree, the cooling summer wind through the orchard, the smell of the fruit ready – almost – to drop. Edgy citrus on the palate, touch of drying bay and bitter orange. Crisp and deep with a mouth-watering/saw freshness. Taut and dark for a Smaragd especially on the long finish. (PS) 15.5S
Drink 2023 – 2032

Emmerich Knoll, Kellerberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17.5 ++

Dürnstein. South- to south-east-facing at 204–340 m on Gföhl gneiss.
Smells of stone, lime and wild mint. Lively, luminous and taut palate with elegant fruit finesse and balance. A firm salty edge harnesses the deep concentration. Still closed to all but the most superficial observations. Wait. (PS) 18S
Drink 2025 – 2032

Tegernseerhof, Kellerberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17 +

Dürnstein. South- to south-east-facing at 204–340 m on Gföhl gneiss.
Wet stone, drying alpine herbs, citrus hints. Quite racy on the complex palate with the characteristic Riesling pace. Stony, appealing and zesty bitterness on the finish. Delightful and embryonic. (PS) 17R
Drink 2025 – 2030

Emmerich Knoll, Schütt Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17.5 ++

Dürnstein. South-facing at 208–225 m elevation with sandy, stony and deep soil.
Bewitching notes of ripe apricot and citrus on the complex nose. A razor-sharp and stony spice emerges on the textured palate. Saline, lemongrass, leafy green herb, and white pepper. Highly concentrated with beautiful Riesling purity on the long citrus finish. (PS) 18S
Drink 2025 – 2032

Tegernseerhof, Schütt Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5 +

Dürnstein. South-facing at 208–225 m elevation with sandy, stony and deep soil.
Fresh yellow-fruit aromas, drying herbs and elegant spice. Smells of cardamom and white pepper. Supple fruit defined by an appealingly bitter moistness. Complex, moderate intensity with plenty of edge and spice. A bit demanding at this point and warm on the long finish. (PS) 17R
Drink 2025 – 2032

Unterloiben

Bäuerl, Kreutles Grüner Veltliner Federspiel 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben. Loess soils at the foot of the Loibenberg. 228 m from the Danube.
More mineral/stony than the Axberg. Often Steiermarkish. Piercingly fresh fruit, both citrus and pear. Light, as Federspiel should be, bright, zesty and pure. (JH) 12.5S
Drink 2024 – 2027

Simon Gattinger, Kreutles Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Loess soils at the foot of the Loibenberg. 228 m from the Danube.
Fragrant with fresh pears and a touch of white mushroom (but in a good way). Medium-weight Smaragd, without great intensity on the mid palate, rather reserved overall but fills out as it warms in the glass. Almost too young to taste. A delicate style of Smaragd but persistent. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2024 – 2027

Emmerich Knoll, Kreutles Grüner Veltliner Federspiel 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Loess soils at the foot of the Loibenberg. 228 m from the Danube.
Tense, dry and stony-first impression. Light, mouth-watering, bone dry but with fine persistence. Pure and piercing. (JH) 12.5S
Drink 2024 – 2028

Emmerich Knoll, Kreutles Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben. Loess soils at the foot of the Loibenberg. 228 m from the Danube.
Richer and spicier than Simon Gattinger's version but perhaps a little less precise. Soft, fragrant. (JH) 15S
Drink 2024 – 2028

Atzinger, Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Rich, open, pear-fruited aroma. Invitingly aromatic. Light dusting of spice, soft and pure. Lighter on the palate than I expected from the nose. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2025 – 2030

Atzinger, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Rich, deep and spicy citrus aroma. Really open. Firm, deep and intense with great purity. Still not a full-throttle Smaragd but perfectly balanced and long. A baby. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2025 – 2035

Frischengruber, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Ripe lemony aroma with a hint of apricot as well as a light spicy/mineral touch. Deep-fruited and more intense than many of these Wachau 2022s, with notable and mouth-watering persistence. (JH) 15S
Drink 2026 – 2032

Simon Gattinger, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
More stony than citrus at the moment but still scented with fruit. Almost smoky-mineral. Tightly wound by the acidity and lots of texture here, as much texture as flavour. A distinctive style with a long, mouth-watering moreish finish. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2026 – 2032

Gritsch Mauritiushof, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Aroma is powerful, open and a touch spicy. One of the ripest-fruited in this line-up of 2022 Riesling(s) so far with both lemon and apricot. Bright, vibrant and a very fruity style set with persistent freshness. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2025 – 2032

Hutter, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Spiced citrus with a touch of white mushroom (but perfectly clean). A sort of oily mineral side to it. Broad and spicy on the palate, too, but broader than it is deep. More flavour than refinement. Chewy finish. (JH) 15S
Drink 2024 – 2028

Emmerich Knoll, Loibenberg Riesling Federspiel 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Intense, minerally citrus nose. Crisp and bright and lemony on the palate. Pristine fruit, decent length. Extreme freshness and nicely dry texture. (JH) 12.5S
Drink 2024 – 2027

Emmerich Knoll, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Vibrant lemon fruit with a hint of just-ripe pear and spice. Open, full of life and freshness. Pure-fruited, relatively light but deliciously creamy in the mouth. Deep, crisp and even, to quote the Good King Wenceslas carol. Pure, long, refined. (JH) 18S
Drink 2025 – 2035

Emmerich Knoll, Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Not as open as the Atzinger version, but more marked freshness and persistence. Leaner but longer. Still on the light side for Smaragd though it builds to greater power as it warms in the glass. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2025 – 2032

Paul Sterzschneider - Urbanushof, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
More obviously spicy than the Knoll version. More pear than citrus and twitingly aromatic. On the mid palate this has more of the Smaragd richness you might expect but it pulls in to a lively fresh, tight, mouth-watering finish. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2025 – 2035

Tegernseerhof, Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Deep aroma of spicy pears and a classic Grüner white pepper note, as well as a more stony/mineral character. Surprisingly complex already. On the palate, sour-fresh and herbal; very dry. (JH) 15S
Drink 2024 – 2030

Tegernseerhof, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
The fruit aroma is on the ripest side, both pear and citrus. But there's an attractive sour-fresh stony edge to moderate the ripeness. Sour-fresh intensity on the mid palate yet it fades rather quickly on the finish, leaving the acidity behind. (JH) 15S
Drink 2025 – 2030

Dom Wachau, Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Sandy, stony soil over granitic gneiss. 414 m from the Danube, terraced and steep at up to 194 m.
Super-inviting stony/mineral aroma that is yet full of pure lemon-lime fruit. Open and expansive. Even creamy. Deep, bright, beautifully balanced. Long, too. (JH) 15.5S
Drink 2025 – 2035

Hutter, Rothenhof Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben, but 46 m from the river, partially terraced.
Ripe, spicy aroma, broad and spicy on the palate, too. It has the freshness to balance but lacks the refinement of the higher sites. Spicy aftertaste. (JH) 14S
Drink 2024 – 2028

Emmerich Knoll, Schütt Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. South-facing. 147 m from the Danube. Deep, sandy/stony soil.
Broad, spicy pear aroma with a touch of white mushroom (perfectly clean). Smooth, relatively soft, with a moderately long spicy aftertaste. (JH) 15S
Drink 2024 – 2029

Atzinger, Steinertal Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Terraced south-facing slope 309 m from the Danube. Sloping 27–42%. Poor sandy soil over weathered gneiss.
Peppery fresh citrus with a fine stony/herbal lift. Dry, taut, almost salty on the finish. A light-footed Smaragd in perfect balance in this lighter, more mineral style with a sour-fresh aftertaste. (JH) 15S
Drink 2024 – 2028

Atzinger, Steinertal Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 17

Unterloiben. Terraced south-facing slope 309 m from the Danube. Sloping 27–42%. Poor sandy soil over weathered gneiss.
Deep and rich with such lovely pure citrus intensity and an attractive minor smoky note (a positive hint of reduction?). Full and intense in the mouth and still beautifully fresh. Extreme purity with moderate concentration. Mouth-wateringly long finish. (JH) 18S
Drink 2025 – 2035

Schmelz, Steinertal Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Terraced south-facing slope 309 m from the Danube. Sloping 27–42%. Poor sandy soil over weathered gneiss.
A little ripest on the nose than the Atzinger bottling – pear and citrus combined. Nicely chewy texture and more restrained on the palate than I expected from the aroma. Tight and mouth-watering with a lightly spiced finish. (JH) 14S
Drink 2025 – 2028

Tegernseerhof, Steinertal Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Unterloiben. Terraced south-facing slope 309 m from the Danube. Sloping 27–42%. Poor sandy soil over weathered gneiss.
Tight lemy citrus aroma. Intense, relatively powerful. Smells a little ripest-fruited and broader than the Atzinger version. Spicy, almost toasty on the finish but balanced by cool citrus purity on the long, sour-fresh aftertaste. (JH) 15S
Drink 2024 – 2032

Emmerich Knoll, Trum Grüner Veltliner Federspiel 2022 Wachau 16

Unterloiben. 413 m from the Danube at 203–212 m, alluvial loess in the lower part.
Spicy pear fruit on both the nose and the palate. Cool, relatively simple but balanced. (JH) 12.5S
Drink 2024 – 2027

Mauternbach

Eder, Süssenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2021 Wachau 16

Sigpul area behind the town of Mautern/bach. Glacial loess which blew transitions from a lacustrial zone (brown) into sand. The next layer consists of reddish that was deposited during the ealier Mindel glaciation, coming to rest on top of the loess. A mixture of loess and paragneiss and amphibolite material form the final layer. 207–315 m elevation.
Ripe aromas of spiced pears. The full-bodied fruit is underscored with an oily minerality and lingering spice. (PS) 14S
Drink 2024 – 2029

Hutter, Süssenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16.5

Sigpul area behind the town of Mautern/bach. Glacial loess which blew transitions from a lacustrial zone (brown) into sand. The next layer consists of reddish that was deposited during the ealier Mindel glaciation, coming to rest on top of the loess. A mixture of loess and paragneiss and amphibolite material form the final layer. 207–315 m elevation.
Ripe yellow-fruit aroma gives way to a crisp and spicy palate. Markedly different and restrained from the generous nose – dry and fresh with a chalky texture and well-integrated alcohol. Good intensity, deep not wide. Stony, herbal and long. (PS) 14S
Drink 2023 – 2029

Mautern

Hutter, Silberbichl Riesling Smaragd 2022 Wachau 16

Mautern. Large site (53.1 ha) at 206–252 m elevation, over 1 km from the Danube.
Aromas of lemon oil and lilies. Juicy concentration shaped by a refreshing stony texture. Lime juice and lemon balm. Racy and fresh. (PS) 13.5S
Drink 2024 – 2030

Eder, Silberbichl Riesling Smaragd 2021 Wachau 17

Mautern. Large site (53.1 ha) at 206–252 m elevation, over 1 km from the Danube.
Creamy apricot aromas, thyme and sage, delicate white blossoms. Rich centrefuted palate riddled with challenging citrus charm and stony momentum. Quinine and lime juice, energetic tension and chalky grip. Beautifully fresh without becoming bracing. (PS) 13.5S
Drink 2024 – 2033

View next article
Stannary Wine's 2023 US finds
Six out of 45 wines marked good value here ... especially the Foghorn range of Jim and Bob Varner of ...
Or, view previous article: Floods wreak disaster in South Africa's winelands

Janci Robinson

Copyright © 2022 Janci Robinson | Manage Preferences